

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 15, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-66 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66 are independent. Claims 1-66 are respectfully submitted for consideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-20, 22-27, 29-38, 40-46, 48-53, and 55-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0185883 of Rukman ("Rukman") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0009525 of Evslin ("Evslin"). The Office Action took the position that, with regard to independent claims 1, 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66, Rukman discloses all of the elements of the claims except "the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment." The Office Action supplied Evslin to remedy these deficiencies of Rukman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-18 depend, is directed a multimedia messaging service arrangement in a telecommunications system. The arrangement includes a first system entity providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system and a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The first system entity is configured to send a message to the second system entity, in which the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.

Claim 19, upon which claims 20-36 and 61-62 depend, is directed to a method for providing a multimedia messaging service in a telecommunications system comprising a first system entity providing multimedia messaging service to a user equipment connected to a network of the system, and a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The method includes sending a message from a first system entity to a second system entity, wherein the message comprises roaming information on user equipment.

Claim 37, upon which claims 38-44 depend, is directed to a telecommunications system element including providing means for providing multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network and sending means for sending a message to a system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.

Claim 45, upon which claims 46-59 and 63-64 depend, is directed to a value added service providing element. The service providing element includes providing means for providing a value added service to a user of user equipment connected to a network via a multimedia messaging service that is provided by a multimedia messaging service providing system entity and receiving means for receiving a message from the multimedia messaging service providing system entity. The message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.

Claim 60 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium comprising a computer program set. The execution of the program set in a computer connected to a telecommunications system causes the computer to execute steps. The steps include providing a value added service to a user of user equipment connected to a network of a telecommunications system via a multimedia messaging service, which is provided by a multimedia messaging service providing system entity and receiving a message from the multimedia messaging service providing system entity. The message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.

Claim 65 is directed to a system for providing a multimedia message service in a telecommunications system comprising a first system entity providing multimedia messaging service to a user equipment connected to a network of the system, and a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. The system includes sending means for sending a message from a first system entity to a second system entity. The message comprises roaming information on user equipment.

Claim 66 is directed to a method for multimedia messaging. The method includes providing a multimedia messaging serviced to user equipment connected to network of a system, providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service, and sending a message from a first system entity to a second system entity. The message comprises roaming information to the user equipment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination of Rukman and Evslin does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Rukman discloses a system and method for threading short message service messages with multimedia messaging service messages. Rukman, at paragraph 0002 mentions that Short Message Service (SMS) messages can be sent to send short text messages or to notify the owner of an event such as a voice mail message. Additionally, Rukman indicates that the SMS messages can be sent to devices that are roaming in another service provider's wireless network.

Rukman, in paragraph 0006, mentions that Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) is more advanced than SMS. Indeed, as Rukman observes, MMS can be used to send personal multimedia messages between wireless devices or between a wireless device and an e-mail.

Rukman however, fails to disclose or suggest either "a first system entity providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system and a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service," "the first system entity is configured to send a message to the second system entity," or, as the Office Action noted "the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment," which are recited by claim 1.

Similarly, Rukman fails to disclose or suggest similar limitations in claims 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66, for example:

Claim 19 recites “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” “sending a message from a first system entity to a second system entity,” and “the message comprises roaming information on user equipment;”

Claim 37 recites “sending means for sending a message to a system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service” and “the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment;”

Claim 45 recites “providing means for providing a value added service to a user of user equipment connected to a network via a multimedia messaging service that is provided by a multimedia messaging service providing system entity,” “receiving means for receiving a message from the multimedia messaging service providing system entity,” and “the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment;”

Claim 60 recites “providing a value added service to a user of user equipment connected to a network of a telecommunications system via a multimedia messaging service, which is provided by a multimedia messaging service providing system entity,” “receiving a message from the multimedia messaging service providing system entity,” and “the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment;”

Claim 65 recites “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” “sending means for

sending a message from a first system entity to a second system entity,” and “the message comprises roaming information on user equipment;” and

Claim 66 recites “providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” “sending a message from a first system entity to a second system entity,” and “the message comprises roaming information to the user equipment.”

Each of the independent claims has its own scope. However, for ease of presentation, arguments will be presented regarding the elements of claim 1, but should also be applied to the other independent claims, to the extent that they recite similar features.

The Office Action took the position that “a first system entity providing a multimedia messaging service to user equipment connected to a network of a system and a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service” was disclosed by Rukman’s comment that MMS can be used to send a personal multimedia message, at paragraph 0006 of Rukman. Applicants respectfully disagree with this analysis.

Rukman does not disclose any system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service. Rukman is silent about any value added services and only deals with the multimedia messaging service.

The Office Action specifically referred to paragraph 0006 of Rukman, which mentions that MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) can be used to send personal

multimedia messages. Such sending of multimedia messages with MMS, however, is not a value added service but merely a multimedia messaging service as Rukman literally discloses. Rukman, at paragraph 0006, merely lists the basic properties of the regular multimedia messaging service.

The term “value added service” is a term known in the art, which generally refers to a telecommunication service by means of which the user is provided with a service outside a telecommunication network. As paragraph 0005 of the present application notes, some examples of value added services include various information services, interactive gaming, and personal multimedia communication services.

As already noted above, MMS’s sending of multimedia messages is not, as such, a value added service. Value added services can be offered to the users via the MMS but the MMS itself as disclosed by Rukman is not a value added service.

Since Rukman fails to disclose the second system entity providing “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” Rukman also necessarily fails to disclose “the first system entity is configured to send a message to the second system entity.” And, additionally, as the Office Action observes, Rukman also necessarily fails to disclose “in which the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.”

The combination of Rukman and Evslin fails to disclose or suggest “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” “the first system entity is configured to send a message

to the second system entity,” and “in which the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment” because Rukman fails to disclose or suggest these features and because Evslin fails to remedy Rukman’s deficiencies.

Evslin is generally directed to a wireless phone with interface to different networks. Evslin, at claim 12, discusses a cellular telephony network including a switch for receiving signals from an IP network that indicate that a cellular phone is roaming in the switch’s home network. Additionally, Evslin is completely silent about multimedia messaging service and value added service. Thus, Evslin does not disclose any of the features of claim 1 with regard to which Rukman is deficient, namely: “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” “the first system entity is configured to send a message to the second system entity,” and “in which the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.”

As noted above, the combination of Rukman and Evslin also fails to disclose or suggest the similar limitations in claims 19, 37, 45, 60, and 65-66.

Dependent claims 2, 4-9, 11-18, 20, 22-27, 29-36, 38, 40-44, 46, 48-53, 55-59, and 61-64 depend from and therefore include the limitations of independent claims 1, 19, 37, and 45, as well as reciting additional limitations. It is therefore respectfully submitted that each of claims 2, 4-9, 11-18, 20, 22-27, 29-36, 38, 40-44, 46, 48-53, 55-59, and 61-64 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references.

Claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, 47, and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rukman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,917,813 of Elizondo ("Elizondo"). The Office Action appears to have taken the position that Rukman teaches all of the elements of the claims except "the roaming information comprises an address of a switching centre which the user equipment is using." The Office Action supplied Elizondo to remedy the deficiencies of Rukman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is flawed on its face. In the rejection of independent claims 1, 19, 37, and 45, from which claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, 47, and 54 depend, the Office Action acknowledged that Rukman does not disclose "the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment." Because dependent claims include all the limitations of the independent claims upon which they depend, the teaching of Rukman is deficient for at least the reasons the Office Action has already identified. The Office Action does not supply any reference to remedy this previously noted deficiency. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Elizondo is directed to the provision of short message services. Elizondo, at column 2, lines 11-27 generally describes the modification of the SMS address parameter. For example, Elizondo mentions that the address parameter can be modified by a mobile switching center (MSC) to include the MSC's own E.212 address number in a REGNOT message when a mobile station (MS) is roaming into a different SS7 network.

Elizondo, however, is silent about multimedia messaging service and value added service. Thus, Elizondo does not disclose any of the features of claim 1 with regard to which Rukman is deficient, namely: “a second system entity providing a value added service to a user of the user equipment via the multimedia messaging service,” “the first system entity is configured to send a message to the second system entity,” and “in which the message comprises roaming information on the user equipment.” The combination of Rukman and Elizondo also fails to disclose or suggest the similar limitations in claims 19, 37, and 45 upon which Claims 3, 10, 21, 28, 39, 47, and 54 depend. It is therefore respectfully submitted that each of claims 2, 4-9, 11-18, 20, 22-27, 29-36, 38, 40-44, 46, 48-53, 55-59, and 61-64 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the combination of Elizondo and Rukman does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

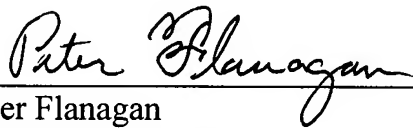
For the reasons explained above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-66 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-66 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by

telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Flanagan
Registration No. 58,178

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

PCF:kmp

Enclosures: Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time (1)
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